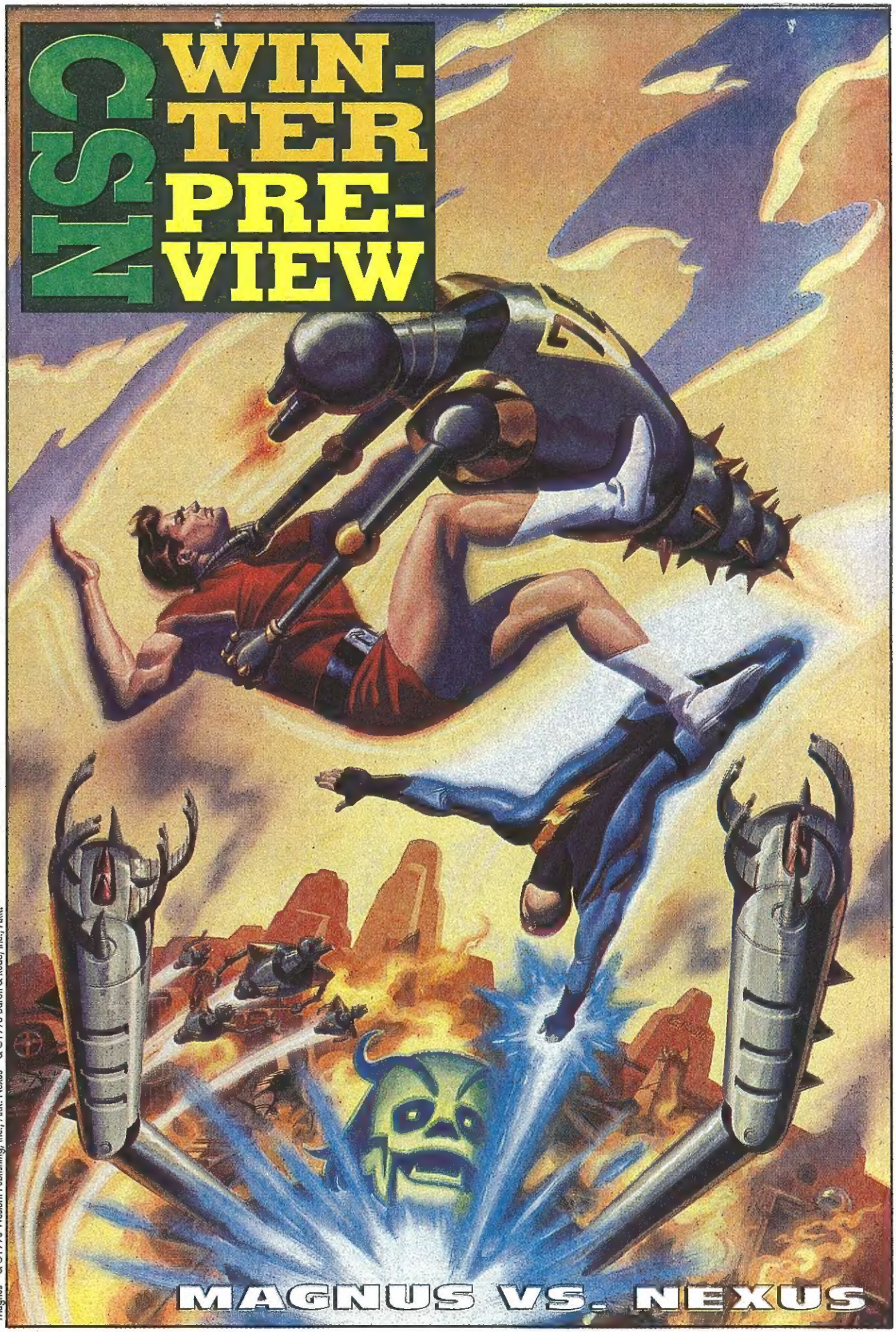

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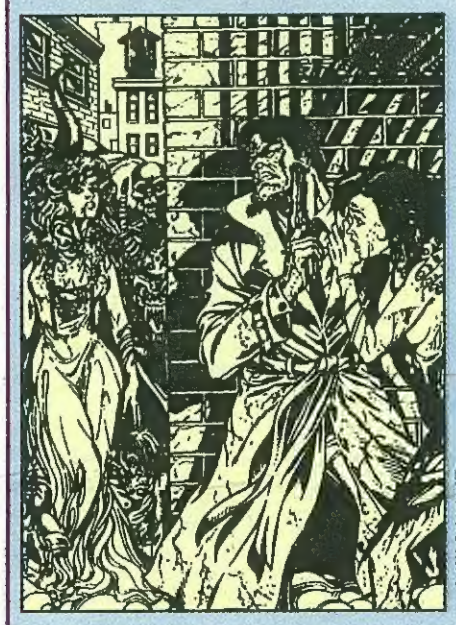
CSN WINTER PREVIEW

While this winter doesn't rival last winter's phenomenal comics boom in terms of new series, major storylines, etc., there are still hundreds of great comics that will be competing for your attention in the next three months. ***CSN*** has scanned through the stacks of offerings and come up with the publications that you'll want to know about—and that you'll more than likely want to add to your must-see list. This guide is by no means comprehensive, because it would take us ten times as much space to list and comment on everything slated for release between December and February; instead, we're calling to your attention the most intriguing debuts and most attention-getting storylines. And now... let's get to the comics!

Adhesive

The Eden Matrix is a computer techie's dream comic: the plot is a action/adventure with a cyberpunk edge, and the comic is the first to use digital imaging... and to top it off, the book features clues that'll get you into a special computer bulletin board where you can learn more about the characters and the book. The basic story concerns an amnesiac hacker who is trying to find his way out of cyberspace, hoping to learn at the same time just who he is. *(February, $2.95)*



Alpha

Gideon King, the supernatural private detective also known as the Nightmark, stars in two full-length adventures in ***Nightmark Mystery Special #1***. One story pits the Nightmark against a horde of demons, while the other involves a female vampire who wants to get revenge on the being responsible for her vampiric transformation. *(January, $2.50)*

Antarctic Press

Antarctic's ever-popular ***Ninja High School*** inspires a new swimsuit special... and this time, it's in full color. Ben Dunn is joined by lotsa other artists for ***Ninja High School 1993 Swimsuit Special***; this compendium of swimsuit art should take the edge off the winter chill. *(December, $2.95)* Antarctic also has a special ***Ninja High School #0*** set to debut this winter; this 32-page book reveals what the NHS characters were up to prior to the first issue of the series, and it also features rare sketches and never-before-published Ben Dunn art. *(January, $2.75)*

Malibu will be publishing a four issue ***Project A-KO*** series later this year—but if you can't wait that long, then you might want to check out the ***Project A-KO Settei Special***. Produced in cooperation with Malibu, this book offers rare production artwork, pin-ups, and more. If you haven't seen ***Project A-KO*** before, give it a try... and if you're a comics fan, pay particular attention to the film's end!... *(February, $2.95)*

Japanese movie fans, keep an eye open for ***Sentai #1***. This 32-page comic-size magazine focuses on the world of Japanese live action science fiction and superhero TV shows and movies. The first issue focuses on the 1993 ***Godzilla Vs. Mothra*** film, as well as featuring an update on ***Godzilla Vs. Mecha-Godzilla***. *(February, $2.95)*

Silibuster is a manga-translation tale of a young girl who must develop a high-tech rocket after her father dies while working on the project. It's an important mission, because this rocket is the only hope the human race has against an alien invasion. *(January-February, $2.95)*

Anubis

A hero who can change into a cobra? What else would you expect from a guy named The Snake? ***The Snake Ashcan Edition #0,*** which features the origin of this venomous hero, is limited to only 10,000 copies. *(February, $3.95)*

Trauma Corps is an action-packed science fiction-hero series that kicks off with an eye-catching cover by Joe Madureira. The Universe is in danger, but the two Trauma Corps Units have to overcome their enmity with one another if they have any hope of combating the menace from the center of a black hole. *(January, $3.95 for the ashcan, $2.95 for the regular issue)*

Axis

Axis Alpha, a special book from the publishers of Tribe, introduces a variety of heroes who will eventually appear in their own Axis series. This one-shot also features a prequel to the events in ***Tribe #1*** by Larry Stroman and Todd Johnson. *(February, $2.50)*

Black Ball

Dave Elliot, the mastermind behind ***A-1,*** is at it again; this time, he's joined by some pretty big names as he leads the metamorphosis of Tundra UK into a new company, Black Ball. The first offering is ***Monster Massacre,*** a 48-page full-color special that features high-energy full-impact-ultraviolence entertainment by Keith Giffen, Kevin O'Neill, James O'Barr, Kevin Eastman, Simon Bisley, and others. *(December, $2.50)*

Speaking of Keith Giffen, his Trencher, who recently made his home at Image, has moved to Black Ball. The ***Trencher X-Mas Bites Holiday Blowout*** is a 48-page special that paves the way for Trencher's ongoing-series return later on in '94. *(December, $2.50)*

Black Diamond

He may be an ***Ogre*** now, but he was once just another college student whose biggest concern was the prospects of his future relationship with an attractive co-ed. Then a diabolical scientist experimenting with genetic manipulation rebuilt him as the monstrous creature he is today... and he has plans for further experimentation on the young man's girlfriend! ***Ogre*** is a full-color book from Phil White and Pete Ayala; it's fun reading in the style of a New Line horror film. *(January-February, $2.95)*

Bongo

The Simpsons rollout continues this winter with the debut of two new Simpsons-inspired comics, ***Bartman*** and ***Radioactive Man.*** Each book offers superhero parody in the Simpsons style courtesy of Groening, Vance, and Morrison; in the former book, Bart Simpson is the guy behind the mask, while the latter book recreates the comic that Bart Simpson is always faunching for in The Simpsons. Both of 'em come with special cover enhancements and bonus poster inserts... but let's face it, that's not going to be necessary for these books' success... *(December, $2.95@)*

Bravura

This new Malibu imprint features creator-owned series by such acclaimed creators as Jim Starlin, Howard Chaykin, Walt Simonson, Gil Kane, Steven Grant, Dan Brereton, Dan Jurgens, and Peter David. The line kicks off with ***'Breed,*** a four-issue Jim Starlin limited series about a half-human half-demon being who is determined to uncover the truth about his origins. *(January-April, $2.50)* The second series, ***Power & Glory,*** is Howard Chaykin's take on the superhero concept; the series chronicles government attempts to make a superhero who is all image and no substance.... and on the truly heroic trainer who is supposed to re-mold the "hero." *(February-May, $2.50)* There's also a Bravura Gold-Stamp Program that will make it possible for fans to win special edition comics.

Caliber

Beck and Caul, the supernatural detective team series originally announced for fall release, has been rescheduled for this winter. The series stars New Orleans-based Jonas Beck and Mercedes "Caul" Guillaune as they take on evil in all its guises. *(January, $2.95)*

Caliber's ***Big Bang Comics*** are certainly different from the average Caliber release. These books are set in a self-contained universe that brings together fifty years of imaginary comic book history. The first issue is set in the Golden Age of the Big Bang Universe—and it features a rare cover by Golden Age master Sheldon Mold-off! Subsequent issues will take readers through the Silver Age and into modern times. *(February, $4.95)* ***Dr. Weird,*** one of the mainstays of the Big Bang Universe, stars in his own series; the 64-page first issue features material that originally appeared in semi-pro zines years ago, including classic early comics work by Jim Starlin! *(February, $4.95)*

Black Mist, a dark tale set in the final days of World War I, presents a reluctant hero who is the result of German experimentation on prisoners of war. His vengeance on those who helped create him is the focus of the series by James Pruett and Avido Khahaifa. *(January, $2.95)*

Chaos!

Evil Ernie #0 offers a not-so-cheery holiday tale, Ernie-style... and the red is more than just a seasonal hue! Ramsey, a mech-augmented government operative, uses his high-tech equipment to force Evil Ernie to confront his past as an abused child... a past that helped pave the way for Ernie's evil persona. *(December, $2.50)*

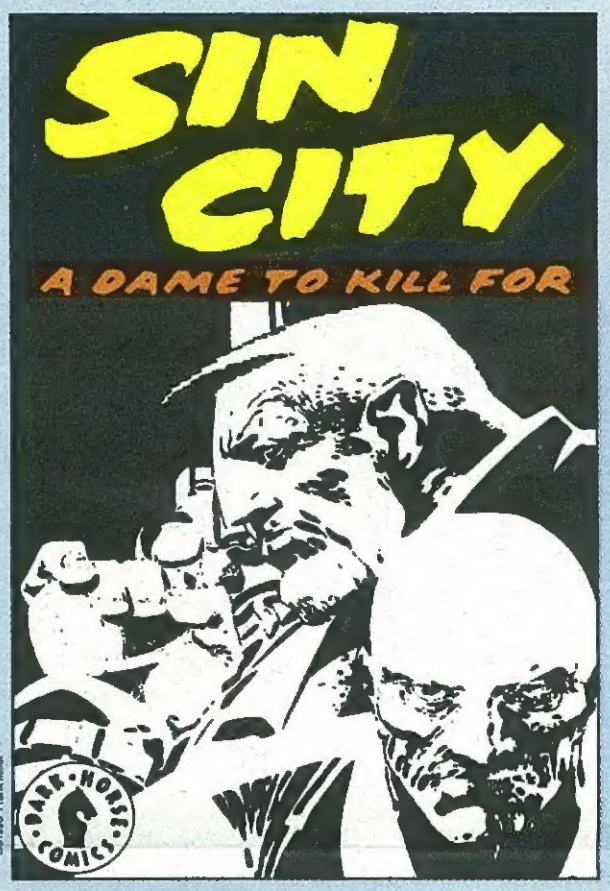
Lady Death earns her own book courtesy o ***Evil Ernie*** co-creators Brian Pulido and Steven Hughes. The first issue presents the origin of Lady Death and features a special guest appearance by Evil Ernie; it also features an eye-catching chromium cover by Hughes. *(January, $3.50)*

Continuity

The crossover of Valeria the She-Bat and Spawn is history—but Continuity has its own flowing-caped, avenging hero ready to debut this season. ***Knighthawk, the Protector,*** a new addition to Neal Adams' Hybrid concept, is designed to appeal to fans of Batman and Spawn. *(January, $2.50)*

The Rise of Magic is a multi-title crossover series that involves the bulk of the Continuity titles; the storyline also introduces a new hero, ***Shaman,*** who plays a very important role in the storyline and may go on to star in his own series if reader response warrants. *(December-January, $2.50@)*

Continuity introduces a new imprint, Curious Comics, with ***The Damned City,*** a four-issue miniseries that follows an ex-hooker and a manic depressive through a nightmarish version of New York City, where danger and death is even more common than in the real Big Apple! *(February, $2.50)*



Dark Horse

Aliens: Music of the Spears, a symphony of terror and suspense, makes the Aliens the focus of an experiment to create an avant-garde musical piece featuring the sounds of rage from "a mouthful of spears." You'd think they'd have learned by now that Aliens never go along with these schemes... These series features a script by horror-meister Chet Williamson and moody art by Tim Hamilton and Timothy Bradstreet. *(January-April, $2.50)*

Bruce Zick, best known for his work on ***Thor,*** ventures into Greek mythology with ***Atlas,*** a cosmic miniseries that brings the god to our modern-day world. No one's too glad to see him, though, when they learn that he's brought his battle with the Pantheon of Gods to our world... *(February, $2.50)*

Catalyst: Agents of Change, one of the Golden City books from last summer's ***Comics Greatest World*** series, graduates to its own twelve-issue limited series. Catalyst supports Golden City's secession fro the US... but you can be sure that the government isn't too happy about the plan! *(February, $2.00)*

Colors In Black, Spike Lee's second Comics From Spike! release distributed by Dark Horse, is an anthology book dealing with race and race relations. The stories range from historical fact to social commentary to science fiction, all with a racial theme. *(February, $2.95)*

Ready for ***Danger Unlimited***? It's a new series by John Byrne that features Fantastic Four-Chal-

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lengers of the Unknown style superhero action in the Byrne style. When Cal Carson awakens from 75 years in stasis, he finds that he's forgotten a lot of details... but one thing he does remember is that the alien Xleril shouldn't be running the planet... *(February, $2.00)*

Dark Horse Presents #80 introduces Arthur Adams' creation for the Legend line, "Monkeyman and O'Brien." This story of a super-smart gorilla, a superstrong woman, and a lotsa super-menacing monsters will soon continue in its own ongoing series. *(December, $2.25)*

Godzilla Vs. Barkley. The title says it all. Well, almost all; the creative team of Mike Baron and Jeff Butler says the rest, with Dave Dorman adding a cover painting. *(December, $2.95)*

X is the second Comics' Greatest World Hero to earn his own series. Steven Grant, Doug Mahnke, and Jimmy Palmiotti present the exploits of Arcadia's dark-clad avenger... and he strikes as much fear into the hearst of corrupt lawmen as he does the criminals of the city! *(January-February, $2)*

Nexus fans can plan two excursions to the famous future world originally created by Mike Baron and Steve Rude. You can learn more about one of them in the Valiant listings, but we can talk about the other right now: ***Hammer of God—Pentathlon*** is a new one-shot special that focuses on Judah Maccabee, a.k.a. The Hammer, as he competes in the 2493 Mars Olympics, combating romantic problems and interplanetary terrorists as he goes for the gold. Mike Baron, Neil Vokes, and Jay Geldhof are the sports-minded trio responsible for this action-packed, zany oneshot. *(December, $2.50)*

The man with the hat is back in ***Indiana Jones and the Arms of Gold,*** a four-issue limited series that features (appropriately enough) Indiana Jones-style adventure and archeological intrigue in the jungles of South America. Lee Marrs and Leo Duranona handle the creative honors. *(February, $2.50)*

Lutzany may be free from tyranny, but The Mark continues his quest to destroy The Archon, who has found asylum in the United States. ***The Mark,*** a four-issue limited series by Mike W. Barr and Bradley Rader, brings the hunt to the familiar confines of New York City, where the carnage and masked-man brutality may or may not attract any attention at all... *(December-March, $2.50)*

The New Jersey Pine Barrens have served as a home to violence before... but nothing to compare to what CIA operative John Pulnick is accused of. The thing is, Pulnick didn't do it... but he's having trouble convincing anyone that a large, blood-crazed Predator is to blame for the killings. Someone believes him, though: a second Predator, whose come to track down the rogue hunter who's been killing both human and Predator. ***Predator: Bad Blood***, a four-issue limited series by Evan Dorkin, Derek Thompson, and Chris Warner, allies one man and one Predator as they hunt the hunter. *(December-March, $2.50)*

Brian Pulido, co-creator of ***Evil Ernie***, is the writer of a new series, ***Rack & Pain.*** Rack is a living techno-weapon; Pain is a barbarian with incredible strength. Together, they're detectives!... err, they're best buddies whose adventures take them across the galaxy. *(February, $2.50)*

RoboCop tangles with a series of dangerous menaces, including the most malevolent of all—an IRS agent!— in ***RoboCop: Roulette,*** a new series by John Arcudi, Mitch Byrd, and Brian Garvey. RoboCop is on the trail of the cause of a series of murders... and the evidence takes him back to OCP. *(January-April, $2.50)*

The mayhem continues its move towards civilization; in ***The Thing From Another World: Eternal Vows,*** the thing has reached Stewart Island, an isolated spot of land just offshore from New Zealand. If the thing successfully makes it into New Zealand, will anyone be able to control it? You'll find out this winter, courtesy of Dave de Vries, Paul Gulacy, and Dan Davis. *(December-March, $2.50)*

DC

American Freak: A Tale of the Un-Men spins off from Swamp Thing. This limited series by Dave Louapre and Vince Locke stars a young man who is unaware that he is the product of a failed government experiment... but as his life begins to change in bizarre ways, he discovers what it means to be an Un-Man. *(January-February, $1.95)*

Anima achieves the honor of being the first Bloodlines hero to win her own series. SF writers Elizabeth Hand and Paul Witcover handle the scripting honors, while Malcolm Davis and Chris Ivey illustrate the adventures of sixteen-year-old Courtney Mason, who finds herself in a symbiotic relationship with a being of incredible power known only as Animus. The symbiosis is Anima, a new defender of Gotham City. *(January-February, $1.75)*

Batman: The Animated Movie inspires two special DC projects. The first is a comic adaptation of the film appropriately entitled ***Batman: The Animated Movie Adaptation—The Mask of the Phantasm***, while the second is ***Batman Adventures: Mad Love***, a one-shot presenting the origin of Harley Quinn courtesy of ***Batman: The Animated Series'*** Paul Dini and Bruce Timm. Both of them will be must-haves for the legions of fans who've enjoyed Batman on the small screen and the big screen as well. *(December, $4.95/$3.95)*

Batman as Green Lantern? That's the premise of ***Batman: In Darkest Knight***, an Elseworlds series by Mike W. Barr and Jerry Bingham that tells what might have happened had Abin Sur selected Bruce Wayne to be the next Green Lantern. *(December, $4.95)*

The DC Universe is in for a little ***Damage*** this winter. Damage is a 16-year-old whose life takes a turn for the worse when he finds himself pulsating with a weird energy field. He soon uses his new-found power to become a superhero appropriately called Damage—because that's what he can do to anything in his way! Unfortunately, his first supervillain is Metallo, whose already put in some time battling a certain super-powered adversary... ***Damage,*** the creation of Tom Joyner, Bill Marimon, and Tom McWeeney, is the offspring of some very prominent heroes in the DC Universe... but you'll have to follow the series to find out who they are! *(March, $1.75)*

Joe Simon and Jack Kirby's ***Fighting American*** is back in action under the creative control of Rawson, McGreal, LaRocque, and Space. The action-packed political satire is still here, but it's honed to a 1990's edge as the patriotic hero takes on a new set of contemporary menaces. *(December-March, $1.50)*

The Legion undergoes big changes beginning in ***Legion of Super-Heroes #54.*** One member is dead, and the remainder of he team is accused of treason to the galaxy and forced underground, where some of them redefine themselves and take on new superhero identities. *(December, $2.95)*

Lobo takes on the ultimate assassination assignment in ***Lobo: A Contract on Gawd.*** Gawd is the seemingly omnipotent, omniscient being who rules the planet of Paradize. Unfortunately, his benevolent rule offers the planet's citizenry absolutely no freedom of choice... so the few who can escape their leader enlist Lobo to off the big guy. Alan Grant and Kieron Dwyer handle the creative honors on this irreverent series. *(February, $1.75)*

At long last, DC is adding a ***Looney Tunes*** ongoing title to its monthly line-up! This book, edited by Katie Main, features an assortment of ***Looney Tunes*** characters in Warner Bros. cartoon-style action; naturally, Bugs Bunny, Marvin Martian, Daffy Duck, and the Coyote and the Road Runner are featured in the premiere issue. *(March, $1.50)*

The Mystery Play, an 80-page graphic novel by Grant Morrison and Jon J Muth, is an offbeat metaphysical murder mystery-allegory. The victim is an actor who plays God in a Renaissance festival; the chief suspect is the actor who plays Satan. As if the crime doesn't stir things up enough, the mysterious detective who comes to town to solve the crime manages to escalate the turmoil. *(February, $19.95)*

The Big Red Cheese returns to comics courtesy of writer-artist Jerry Ordway (one of the folks responsible for the dramatic resurgence of popularity of Superman) in ***The Power of Shazam!*** This 96-page hardcover graphic novel captures the style of the original Captain Marvel while updating the series for modern audiences. This isn't just a retelling of Captain Marvel's origin; there are details here that have never before been revealed! ***The Power of Shazam!*** will lead into an ongoing ***Shazam!*** series later this year. *(January, $19.95)*

The last major Sandman story arc begins in ***Sandman #57***; "The Kindly Ones" brings together a number of characters featured in earlier Sandman storylines for a mythic confrontation that will have irrevocable effects on the future of the Endless. Writer Neil Gaiman is joined by artist Marc Hempel. Don't worry yet, though; the end of *The Sandman* is still many months away, as Gaiman has a series of shorter epilogues and stand-alone stories in the works before the book comes to a close. *(December-February, $1.95)*

Two stars from the **Reign of the Supermen** storyline graduate to their own series this winter. The first is ***Superboy,*** produced by Kesel, Grummett, and Hazlewood. the Metropolis Kid may have to change his monicker as he relocates to Hawaii, where he discovers that the idyllic isles have their own share of villainy. The other is ***Steel,*** produced by Simonson,Bogdanove, Batista, and Faber; John Henry Irons also makes a big move, but his relocation takes him to Washington, DC, where he's pursued by the violence that plagued his life in Metropolis, forcing him to re-don his armored suit and battle crime in the nation's capital. *(December, $1.50)*

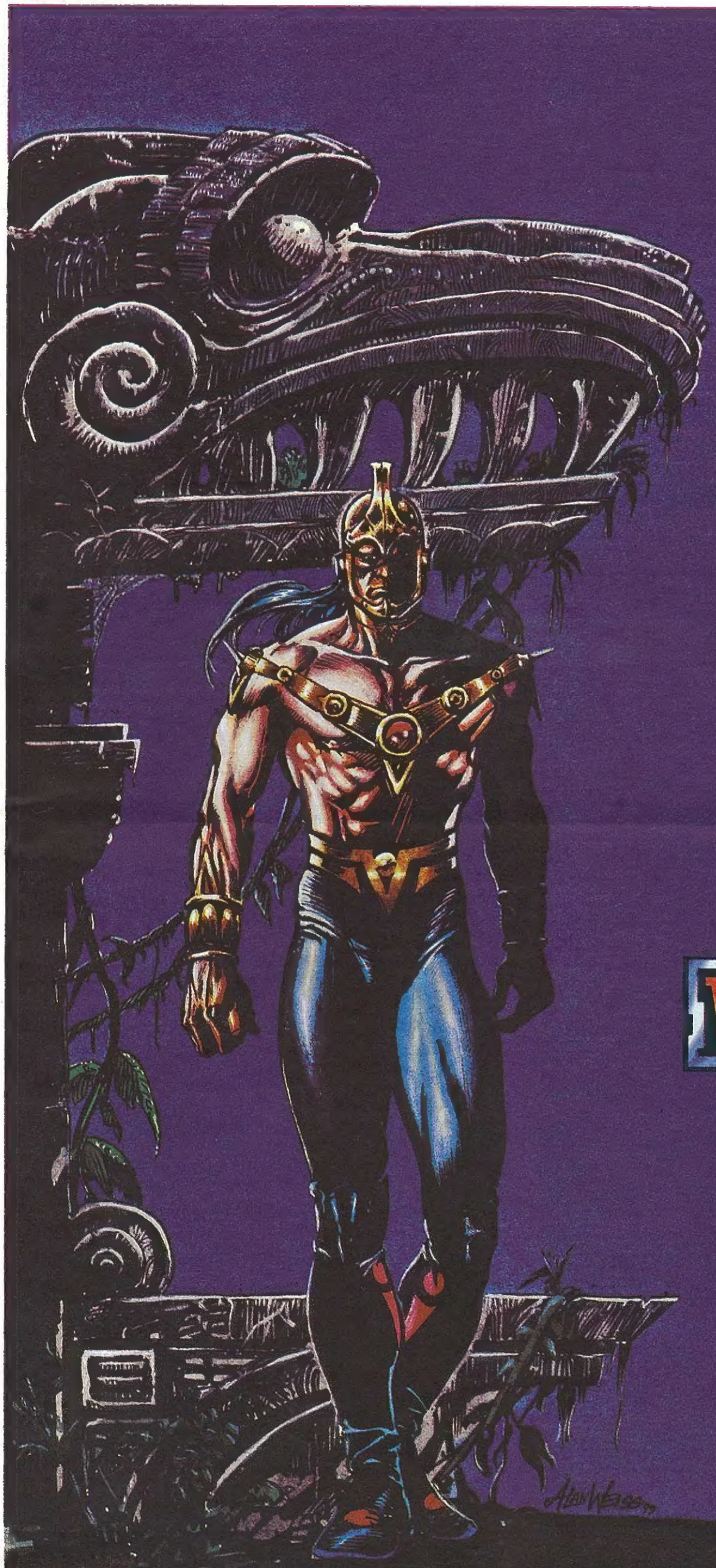
Green Lantern is the hero undergoing dramatic revitalization this spring... and what a revitalization it is! Before it's all over, Sinestro is dead at the hands of his oldest enemy, Hal Jordan is out of the Green Lantern Corps, and a young freelance artist finds himself the bearer of the power ring as he becomes Earth's new Green Lantern. Now, if they'd only given him some instructions... Emerald Twilight, the storyline that revamps one of DC's oldest Silver Age heroes, has already begun; it culminates this winter in ***Green Lantern #50*** and continues following the exploits of the new Green Lantern, courtesy of Ron Marz and Darryl Banks. *(December-February, $1.50/$2.95)*

Speaking of Superman, the Man of Steel slugs it out with Lobo in ***Superman: The Man of Steel #30.*** The comic by Simonson, Bogdanove, and Janke comes with an offbeat cover enhancement: vinyl clings of the two combatants that can be relocated in a variety of patterns, allowing fans to create their own covers. *(December, $2.50)* Afterwards, the Bizarro returns in a five-part storyline. *(January-February, $1.50@)*

Superman: Under a Yellow Sun is a multi-level adventure. On the one hand, it's the story of Superman's ongoing battle with Lex Luthor and LexCorp; on the other hand, it's a novel by Clark Kent that tells the story of an intrepid hero struggling against a manipulative, machiavellian adversary (sound familiar?). *(January, $5.95)*

Swamp Thing is in for some major revamping courtesy of Grant Morrison, Mark Millar, Phillip Hester, and Kim DeMulder. The story kicks off in ***Swamp Thing #140***, when Dr. Alec Holland awakens from a bizarre organic-plant-hallucinogen-induced nightmare in which he imagined himself as a plant creature in the Louisiana swamps. But if it's all a dream, then what's happening with this murderous swamp being terrorizing the bayous... and who is this strange woman named Abigail Arcane? *(January, $1.95)*

DC's reprint volumes include ***Batman: The Collected Legends of the Dark Knight***, reprinting a number of shorter storylines from the Legends of the Dark Knight title, including the superb "Blades" by James Robinson and Tim Sale *(February, $12.95)*; ***The Best of Star Trek: The Next Generation,*** reprinting five different ST:TNG tales *(January, $19.95)*; ***Hellblazer: Dangerous Habits,*** reprinting the story arc that pitted John Constantine against his most dangerous enemy, lung cancer *(February, $14.95)*; ***The Legion of Super-Heroes Archives Volume Four,*** reprinting key stories from the mid-60's *(December,*



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$39.95); and a trade paperback edition of ***The Sandman: Fables & Reflections*** *(December, $19.95).*

Legends of the World's Finest reunites Batman and Superman for anew limited series under the direction of Walt Simonson and Dan Brereton. This time around, a mystical confrontation between the Silver Banshee, Blaze, and Tullus has unexpected ramifications for Batman and Superman, taking them into one another's dreamworlds. *(January-March-$4.95)*

Defiant

This past summer, Defiant distributed a special publication called ***Defiant: The Origin of The Universe.*** If you didn't latch onto one then—or even if you did—you can add a copy to your collection for a bargain price this February. The updated, redesigned work details the background of the Defiant Universe, and it also details the origin of the Org of Plasm. Several new titles will be mentioned in this 16-page publication. *(February, $1.50)*

The Warriors of Plasm Trade Paperback reprints ***Warriors of Plasm #s 1-4*** and supplements it with the hard-to-find story from ***Plasm #0*** and the Splatterball story from the trading card binder, along with production notes and background sketches. *(February, $9.95)*

Along with the River Group, Defiant is producing ***Jim Shooter's Defiant Universe Collection Trading Cards,*** a 99-card set that offers a sneak peek at the future of the Defiant Universe. Several new characters will debut in this card series, so completists won't want to miss it! *(February, $1.75/pack)*

Double Diamond

The Collegiate Hepcats, subtitled **Volume One of the Hepcats Reprint Library,** offers an affordable compendium of all of Martin Wagner's Hepcats material from his college days, as well as the first issue of the comic book series. Much of this material has never been seen by Hepcats fans, making it an essential addition to a Hepcats collection. *(December, $9.95)*

Eclipse

Age of Desire, the long-awaited graphic novel by Clive Barker, P. Craig Russell, and Timothy Bradstreet, is finally ready for release. The tale follows a man who is exposed to the ultimate aphrodisiac, a drug that unleashes his every passion, his every lust. *(January, $6.95; February HC release, $32.95)*

Marion Zimmer Bradley's ***Mists of Avalon*** is one of the most successful additions to the King Arthur Mythos in many years; in February, it becomes a comic book series courtesy of Byam, Parkhouse, Barass, and Leach. The five-issue prestige-format miniseries features fully painted artwork throughout. *(February, $5.95)*

Who killed Superman? No, we're not talking about Doomsday here; we're referring to the unknown killer of George Reeves, the actor who played Superman in the 1950's television series. For years, fans heard that Reeves committed suicide—but evidence now indicates a possible murder and cover-up. Eclipse presents the whole story in ***True Crime Comics Special: The Death of George Reeves.*** *(January, $2.95)*

Express

Before Image Comics was even a notion, ***Megaton Comics*** offered an early home to the work of Rob Liefeld and Erik Larsen, among others. For years, ***Megaton Comics*** has been in limbo, but this winter the never-before-published ***Megaton Christmas Special*** is finally seeing the light of day. This book features a vintage Youngblood drawing by Liefeld, a Vanguard story by Gary Carlson and Steve Adams, and much more; S. Clarke Hawbaker supplies the foil-enhanced cover and Kelley Jones contributes a Megaton trading card. *(December, $2.95)*

Zen, Intergalactic Ninja All-New Color Special #0 kicks off with a stunning chromium cover by fan-favorite Jae Lee; inside, readers will find a confrontation between Zen and Lord Contaminous, as well as Zen's origin, courtesy of Steve Stern and hot newcomer Tasuysa Ishida. *(December, $3.50)* It's followed by ***Zen, Intergalactic Ninja #1,*** which kicks off with a mega-battle between Zen's Recycled Heroes and Lord Contaminous. The premiere issue features comics' first die-cut chromium cover; a non-enhanced version is also available. *(February, $3.95 enhanced, $2.25 non-enhanced)*

Fantaco

Night's Children: Ripper unites Wendy Snow-Lang's vampires with Victorian London's Jack the Ripper. The Night's Children must help uncover Jack the Ripper to maintain their own secrecy... because if they don't, the search could lead to them. *(January, $8.95)*

Fantagraphics

Boulevard of Broken Dreams is a 40-page reprint volume featuring the first appearance of Nate Mishkin, the star of Kim and Simon Deitch's ***Mishkin Files.*** This is a fascinating roman a clef look at the Golden Age of animation, offering a compelling study of the interrelationship of artist and art. *(December, $3.95)* It's followed by a new three-issue limited series, ***Waldo World,*** that wraps up the Mishkin saga. *(January-March, $2.50)*

Jim is back, and this time Jim Woodring's offbeat fantasies are presented in a mixture of color and black and white in ***Eightball***'s deluxe format. ***Jim Volume Two #1*** features a ten-page color "Frank and Manhog" story. *(December, $2.95)*

Fantagraphics' reprint volumes for the winter include ***Love & Rockets Book 11: Wig Wam Bam*** *(February, $14.95 sc $35 hc)* and ***Prince Valiant Volume 20,*** reprinting more classic Hal Foster material *(February, $16.95).*

Galaxinovels

The ***Galaxinovel 1994 Winter Special*** is a sort of Who's Who in the Galaxy Novel Universe; this 48-page full-color book features fact files, character sheets, weapons schematics, tactical data, and more as illustrated by such talents as Mark Bagley, Ron Lim, Darick Robertson, Kevin Maguire, and others. *(December, $3.95)*

Gladstone

The Carl Barks Library of Donald Duck Adventures In Color is a companion series to the ***Walt Disney's C&S*** volumes; each reprints full-color reprints of Carl Barks material. the ***Donald Duck Adventures*** series kicks off with a reprinting of Donald Duck Finds Pirate gold from ***Donald Duck Four Color #9,*** Barks' first Donald Duck story. *(January-March, $9.95)*

Hamilton Comics

Alan Dean Foster and Joe Staton join the team for ***Charles Barkley and the Referee Murders,*** a murder mystery set on the basketball court. The book will also feature a special behind-the-scenes photo session and a series of Charles Barkley stamps. *(December, $9.95)*

Harris

Dexter Green is trapped in a ***Harsh Realm***—and before his adventure is over, he'll be longing for his old life in a polluted, overpopulated, crime-infested world. Harsh Realm is the story of a private investigator who is trapped in a computer generated artificial reality where fantasy becomes far too real. ***Harsh Realm*** is written by Jim Hudnall, whose work for Malibu's Ultraverse is attracting a good bit of attention. *(February, $2.95)*

Image

Code Name: Stryke Force, originally slated for summer release, has been rescheduled to add some sizzle to this cold winter. This new series by Marc Silvestri, Brandon Peterson, and Joe Chiodo chronicles the adventures of Cyberforce leader Morgan Stryker on his days off. It's not a sitting-around-reading-the-paper-and-drinking-coffee kind of thing, though; instead, Stryker heads up a quartet of super-powered bodyguards. Do we need to tell you that there's lotsa action here?... *(December-February, $1.95)*

Freak Force, the team that's been playing a supporting role in the pages of ***Savage Dragon*** recently, graduates to star status this winter. ***Freak Force #1,*** created by Larsen, Giffen, Bridges, and Story, pits the team of bounty-hunters against an eco-terrorist known as Major Disaster. *(December-February, $1.95)*

This project was initially announced last summer under another title, but it's hitting the stands this winter under its final title, ***Gen 13.*** Created by Jim Lee and Brandon Choi, ***Gen 13*** focuses on four young, hip, carefree teenagers whose life changes radically when a government agency decides that they pose a deadly threat to our nation's security! The only way they can save themselves is to explore their own secret pasts. The first issue contains a special poster by Jim Lee, as well as the first of four coupons redeemable for a copy of the ***Gen 13*** ashcan. *(February, $2.50)*

The Pitt is back... not in the third issue of his own series, mind you, but in ***The Maxx #7,*** which kicks off a two-part battle between the Maxx and the Pitt, courtesy of writer-artist Sam Kieth. Half the battle takes place in the modern world, and half takes place in the Outback. *(January-February, $1.95)*

Jim Valentino and Shadowline Studios' newest creation is ***The Pact.*** This action-packed series features three agents of The Center—Nightstick, Blast!, and Sibyl—who are on the trail of a variety of super-powered adversaries, including Slam!, Blacklight, Cutlass, and Firearm, to bring them back to The Center. But they have other plans... *(February, $1.95)*

ShadowHawk II: The Secret Revealed is more than just a reprint trade paperback; this 124-page edition supplements the reprint story with a flip-format ***ShadowHawk Fact File*** volume that gives data on the book's characters and behind-the-scenes info on ShadowHawk himself. *(December, $12.95)* If you'd rather listen to your comics, there's also ***Shadowhawk II: The Secret Revealed Soundtrack,*** a CD or cassette release that features a dramatization of the Shadowhawk II miniseries. *(February, $10 cassette, $18 CD)*

Todd McFarlane is slated to return to ***Spawn*** this winter after a three-issue fill-in sequence by Grant Morrison and Greg Capullo. So what has McFarlane been doing? ***Spawn/Batman,*** of course!... McFarlane's first issue back is ***Spawn #19.*** *(February, $1.95)*

StormWatch engages in interdimensional conflict in the 48-page ***StormWatch Yearbook #1*** by Marz and Turner. This book introduces a new villain, Argos. (December, $3.50). There's also a ***Stormwatch Sourcebook*** in the works, featuring all sorts of behind-the-scenes info on the team, their high-tech accouterments, the space platform Sky-watch, and more. *(January, $2.50)*

One of the big events in the Image Universe this winter will be the ***WildCATs/Cybeforce*** crossover series, **Killer Instinct.** The storyline will run through the winter in both books, focusing on the romantic triangle involving Warblade, Misery, and Ripclaw. *(December-January, $1.95@)*

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Innovation

After an absence of two years, Hero Alliance returns in a new limited series, ***Hero Alliance: Tarnished Gold.*** The superhero action picks up where the old series left off, courtesy of Broderick, Jr., Jones, and Forcer. *(February, $2.50)*

Quantum Leap Annual #1, originally slated for spring '93 release, should hit the stands this winter; this issue's story puts Ziggy into Sam's body and Sam's mind into Ziggy, the Quantum Leap computer. *(February, $2.95)*

Iron Hammer

Master of the Void is an exciting Nordic heroic fantasy adventure—but there's a difference. Writer Stephen Stanley has been allowed direct access to the original writings of the Vikings, and has drawn his story from that research. He's joined by Games Workshop illustrator Adrian Smith to create what one archeologist calls "The most remarkable translation of the myths I have ever seen..." *(December-February, $2.95)*

Kitchen Sink

Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell continue their insightful look at the Whitechapel Murders; in ***From Hell Volume III;*** this 80-page installment begins to narrow the focus to the royal family and Queen Victoria herself. This is without a doubt one of the most impressive Jack the Ripper works ever produced in any format; historians and comics fans alike should check it out. *(December, $4.95)*

Cute dinosaurs? Yes, but not in the Spielberg style; ***Messozoic*** is an anthropomorphic dinosaur series by Doug Potter whose hero is a cute winged dinosaur struggling to maintain his place in the world as feathered dinosaurs become the norm. *(December, $2.50)*

Kevin Eastman and Simon Bisley join forces for ***Project X: Thump'n Guts,*** the story of a psychotic demigod named Mental Head who has plans to destroy the earth unless four powerful beings can stop him. This is a variant-edition bonanza: there are three different covers, three different endings, and six different color trading cards, making for a possible fifty-four different versions of the book. *(January, $4.95)*

Visions of Arzach is a 64-page hardcover reprinting the material originally printed in the six-volume ***Legends of Arzach*** series. Contributors include Will Eisner, Mike Mignola, Mike Zeck, and Walter Simonson. *(December, $14.95)*

Majestic

Heroes Like Us, the newest series in Majestic's growing line of superhero titles, features a variety of new heroes; this book by Schiller and Lawlis is filled with the solid superhero action that is earning Majestic the reputation as this year's Valiant. *(February, $2.50)*

STAT #1 introduces Majestic's action team; in the first issue by Schiller, Hester, and Sellers, the team is sent by the President on a mission that will pit them against Legacy. Team leader Big Guns is taken by surprise, though, when many members of his team join the other side, helping Legacy defend Venture Island against unwarranted attack. *(December, $2.25)*

Marvel

What's the truth behind the people who claim to be Peter Parker's parents? Fans will find out in ***Amazing Spider-Man #388,*** a 64-page extravaganza that is available with and without cover enhancements. The truth will devastate Peter, Mary Jane, and Aunt May, and will have serious effects on Spider-Man for months to come. *(February, $2.95/$2.25)* This issue will also spawn a four-part storyline running through all the Spidey titles that sends Spidey on the trail of the person he blames for the fate of his possible parents. *(February-March, $1.25-$1.75@)*

Avengers Log #1 is a comprehensive cross-referencing of all the Avengers heroes, villains, and appearances, along with a concise retelling of the Avengers story beginning with their landmark confrontation with Loki and continuing to the present day. *(December, $1.95)*

Beavis & Butt-Head, the misanthropic stars of their own MTV animated series, come to comics this winter. Instead of critiquing rock videos in their own inimitable style, the duo will turn their attention to Marvel Comics... *(January-March, $1.95@)*

Big changes are in store for ***Captain America*** in '94. It seems that the Super-Soldier Serum responsible for his enhanced strength and agility is deteriorating, leaving Steve Rogers with two choices: continue as Captain America and be crippled within a year, or retire. Thus begins the search for the new Captain America—and a year-long struggle with the enemies who would like to help our patriotic hero shuffle off this mortal coil... The story kicks off in ***Captain America #225,*** a 48-page book being released in enhanced and non-enhanced versions. *(January, $2.95/$1.75)* For those of you who want to see the old Cap in action a few more times, take a look at ***Captain America: Drug Wars,*** a one-shot that unites Captain America and the New Warriors as they try to stop an alien drug smuggling ring that hopes to cause the downfall of humanity. *(February, $2.50)*

In ***Captain Marvel: Speaking Without Concern,*** Captain Marvel takes on a menace that's not at all cosmic—in fact, it's about as down-to-earth a menace as any hero can face. The enemy is racism,, and she finds herself a reluctant ally with the FBI as they combat thugs who terrorize Empire State University with their anti-minority violence. (December, $1.75)

Alan Davis' ***ClanDestine*** is a new addition to the Marvel UK line; fans can first meet the super-team in Alan Davis' ClanDestine Preview, a 32-page comic featuring interviews, behind-the-scenes art, and other teaser material for the upcoming series. *(December, $1.50)* Look for the four-issue limited series to kick off in January. *($1.95@)*

Look for a lotta cosmic supporting characters to show up in ***Cosmic Powers,*** a six-issue limited series written by Ron Marz and illustrated by a bevy of talent, including Ron Lim. The series kicks off with a Thanos story; other cosmic characters will appear in subsequent issue, and they'll all come together for the finale. *(January-March, $2.50@)*

Daredevil's "Fall From Grace" storyline comes to a head in ***Daredevil #325***, a 48-page issue that reestablishes Elektra's role in Daredevil's life and paves the way for Daredevil's new Matt Murdock-less direction, courtesy of Chichester, McDaniel, and Collazo. (December, $2.50)
Darkhawk gets a new costume in "Amulet Quest," a four-issue storyline beginning in ***Darkhawk #38***—but if he can't track down all the other Darkhawk amulets in the universe pretty quickly, he won't live to enjoy his new costume for long! This four-issue story arc guest-stars the Silver Surfer. *(February, $1.25)*

Doctor Strange undergoes a major revamping in "Strangers Among Us," a four-issue storyline beginning in ***Dr. Strange #64.*** David Quinn answers many of the questions that have mystified Dr. Strange readers in the past few months, paving the way for a darker, more mystical Dr. Strange in months to come. *(February, $1.75)*

Marvel and TSR join forces to present ***Dragon Strike #1,*** a 32-page comic inspired by TSR's popular ***Dragon Strike*** role-playing game. Jeff Grubb and Mike Harris handle the creative honors for this book that gaming fans are sure to love. *(December, $1.25)*

Fantastic Four fans won't want to miss "Nobody Gets Out Alive," a four-issue story arc beginning in ***Fantastic Four #387.*** Fed up with the entire world, Franklin Richards sets out to destroy the human race... and whether he succeeds in that mission or not, he'll cause major problems for the Fantastic Four! And who is the mysterious visitor from the future who reveals that this will be the Fantastic Four's final mission?... *(February, $2.95 enhanced version with die-cut prismatic foil, $1.25 standard edition)*

Avengers West Coast is history... but that doesn't mean that the heroes who made up that team can't form their own group, does it?! ***Force Works*** features Iron Man, Scarlet Witch, Spider-Woman, USAgent, Wonder Man, and a new hero, Century, who decide that there is a future after the Avengers. The 48-page first issue is available in enhanced and non-enhanced versions (the enhanced version features Marvel's first-ever pop-up cover); there's also a 16-page ashcan edition that'll hit the stands the week before the book premieres. *(January, $3.95/$1.75, 75¢ for the ashcan)*

Marvel Comics Presents usually features four short adventures in each issue; the landmark Marvel Comics Presents #s 149 and 150 break with tradition, though, and each issue presents a book-length adventure in four chapters. Vengeance, Wolverine, Daredevil, and Steel Shade take on Typhoid Mary in a tale by Ann Nocenti and Steve Lightle. *(January, $1.50)*

Marvel Year-In-Review 1993 is another off-the-wall, irreverent look at Marvel's past year in comics. The book seems to draw its humor inspiration more from ***Spy Magazine*** than from ***Mad;*** the humor is hip, and the magazine displays a refreshing awareness that these are all, after all, comic books. *(December, $3.95)*

Moon Knight comes to an end this winter—but don't give up on it early, because this title is the home to hot new artist Steven Platt, who'll soon be illustrating the adventures of Image's ***Prophet.*** Platt's the hottest new artist of the year so far, so be sure to check out his work on ***Moon Knight #s 59 & 60.*** *(December-January, $1.75@)*

NFL Pro Action isn't all comics—but there is a sixteen-page comic book section that features an X-Men story available nowhere else, as well as bonus Fleer/Marvel trading cards. *(December, $2.25)*

Nightwatch, one of the supporting characters from Web of Spider-Man, graduates to his own series—and is it any surprise that Spider-Man guest stars in the first issue? The premiere issue by Kavanagh, Lim, and Milgrom explains how Dr. Kevin Trench became the dark Nightwatch. This book is available in a prismatic foil-enhanced collectors version and a standard edition. *(February, $2.50/$1.25)*

Fresh from the pages of ***Alpha Flight*** comes ***Northstar.*** In the premiere issue of the limited series, Northstar ignores the government order suspending Alpha Flight from action and strikes out on his own; before too long, he has to decide whether to join up with a team of terrorists who plan to use his powers to further their own warped agenda. *(February, $1.75)*

Punisher In 'Nam: Final Invasion, an 80-page bookshelf-edition comic by Don Lomax and Alberto Saichann, takes Frank Castle back to Vietnam for a final mission... and the experience he undergoes there helps shape the man who will eventually become known to Marvel fans as the Punisher. *(February, $6.95)*

Wondering what's going to happen in the finale of the Punisher tale "Suicide Run"? So is virtually every other Punisher fan—and Marvel's keeping mum on the subject. They do confirm, though, that there'll be a major death in ***Punisher War Journal #64***, the final issue of the ten-part story arc.. and that the Punisher will never be the same again... This landmark 48-page issue is being released in enhanced and non-enhanced versions. *(January, $2.95/$2.25)*

Is the world ready for a ***Ren & Stimpy*** spin-off? You'd better hope so, because ***Ren & Stimpy: Powdered Toast Man #1*** is on the way! The title pretty much says it all, doesn't it? *(February, $2.95)*

The Shroud leaps from the pages of Web of Spider-Man to his own limited series, courtesy of Mike Barr, MC Wyman, and Malcolm Jones III. Readers will learn more about the origin of this hooded hero as he reenters the mysterious world of the Cult of Kali. *(January-April, $1.75)*

After many months as a showcase for various top talents, ***Spider-Man*** gets a regular creative team this winter. Howard Mackie, Tom Lyle, and Scott Hanna handle the creative honors for this title; their first issue, ***Spider-Man #44,*** introduces a new villain, a weapons smuggler known as The Dealer. *(January, $1.75)*

Spider-Man: Mutant Agenda is the first comic book-comic strip crossover; Marvel is publishing a special comic that offers a section to hold your clipped-out Spider-Man dailies comic strips, followed by a comic book that wraps up the storyline, courtesy of Steven Grant and Scott Kolins. *(December-January; $1.25/$1.75)*

What's this about Spider-Man revealing his true identity to the world? That's what Tom DeFalco promises for ***Spider-Man Unlimited #4,*** which also features Mysterio... and Marvel says this isn't a dream sequence! Ron Lim handles the art honors for this quarterly title. *(December, $3.95)*

Hey, kids—comics! ***Spider-Man Magazine*** is a new 32-page magazine aimed at younger readers; it features games, quizzes, educational features... and, of course, comics. John Romita, Sr., a Spidey legend, handles the art honor for one of the tales in the premiere issue. *(January-March, $1.95)*

The first major 2099 crossover debuts this winter; **Fall of the Hammer** brings Thor and the other Norse

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gods into the world of 2099, where they create a little havoc as they take over the floating city of Valhalla. This storyline will continue through every 2099 title in December. *($1.25@)*

Marvel's reprint volumes include ***Deadly Foes of Spider-Man,*** reprinting the miniseries by Danny Fingeroth, Kerry Gammil, and Al Milgrom *(February, $12.95)*; ***Death's Head II: The Wild Hunt,*** reprinting the four issue ***Death's Head II*** limited series *(December, $12.95)*; ***Groo: Garden***, reprinting ***Groo the Wanderer #s 25-28*** *(February, $10.95)*; ***Marvel Masterworks #27: The Avengers #s 21-30*** *(December, $34.95)*; ***William Shatner's Tekworld,*** reprinting the five-issue adaptation of ***Tekworld*** that kicked off the series *(December, $12.95)*; ***Wolverine: Weapon X,*** reprinting the ***Marvel Comics Presents*** serial by Barry Windsor-Smith *(February, $12.95)*; and ***X-Men Adventures Volume One,*** reprinting the first four issues of the comic book adaptation of the Fox TV series *(December, $4.95)*.

Venom's latest limited series, ***Venom: The Enemy Within,*** is a Bruce Jones-Bob McLeod extravaganza that unites Venom and Morbius to combat a horde of demons who are attempting to claim San Francisco as their own. *(December-February, $2.95@)*

War Machine moves from the pages of ***Iron Man*** and ***Avengers*** to his own ongoing series this winter, courtesy of Kaminski, Benson, Gecko, and Eklund. Tired of Tony Stark and equally tired of standard superhero action, Rhodey joins up with a political activist group, World Watch, hoping to do something more meaningful with his life. They may be an "outlaw" organization, but Rhodey is convinced that their intentions are good. The first issue of this ongoing series guest-stars Cable and Deathlok. *(February, $2.95 for the foil enhanced version, $2 for the standard version; 75¢ for the ashcan edition)*

The ***X-Men Animated Series*** has gone into a second season, so that means that ***X-Men Adventures,*** the comic book adaptation of the animated series, will do the same. ***X-Men Adventures Season II #1*** begins with the wedding of Jean and Scott, which is interrupted by the return of Morph. *(December, $1.25)*

A core X-Factor member is destroyed in ***X-Factor #100***, and this has a major impact on the future of the team. Marc DeMatteis, Greg Luzniak, and Al Milgrom tell the story in a 48-page extravaganza that will be released in a foil-embossed cover version as well as a standard edition. *(January, $2.95/$1.75)*

X-Force #s 32 & 33 and ***New Warriors #s 45 & 46*** feature a four-part crossover between the two teenage superteams; both books are written by Fabian Nicieza, who is joined by artists Darrick Robertson and Troy Daniel. *(January-February, $1.25@)*

The major X-event of the year is the wedding of Scott Summers and Jean Grey; this storyline will run through ***X-Men, Uncanny X-Men,*** and ***Excalibur,*** and it will also spawn a special book appropriately entitled ***The Many Loves of Jean and Scott.*** The blessed event takes place in ***X-Men #30***. *(January, $1.25-$2.95)*

Marvel has several X-Men special items set for December release, including the ***X-Men Hologram Set,*** featuring all six holograms on a single poster-sized sheet *($24.95)*; the ***X-Men Placards*** set featuring eight 11" x 14" full-color X-Men cards *($9.95)*; and ***The MAX Yearbook,*** a 32-page collection of the assorted X-Men and Avengers art used to commemorate both teams' 30th anniversaries, complete with a hologram-laden cover *($19.95)*. There's also a special ***X-Men Animated Adventures Series***, already matted, framed, labeled, and stamped for authenticity *($99.95)*. If you want to find out all about the mutant team's past, then the February-release ***Official Index to the X-Men #1*** is the book for you; it covers the first fifteen issues of the original ***X-Men*** title. *(February, $1.95)*

Last year, Marvel acquired their own card company, Fleer; this year, they've taken over the license on their trading cards and they're producing their own card series. The first Marvel/Fleer release is the ***Fleer Ultra X-Men Series One Trading Cards,*** a 150-card edition featuring all-new high-quality painted artwork presented in the top-of-the-line Fleer Ultra format. The quality sets new standards for superhero trading cards—and you can bet that these cards are going to be allocated because of the incredible demand. *(January, $3/pack)*

Millennium

The Collector's Dracula follows a group of heavy metal fans and vampire wannabees who meet with a strange fate as they tour Castle Dracula in search of cheap thrills. This two-issue limited series features art by John Bolton, Daerick Gross, Joe Phillips, and others. *(December-February, $3.95)*

Night Fears is a new horror anthology that focuses on... well, the things that disturb us all in the darkness of the night. Contributors to the first issue include John Bolton, Tony Akins, Faye Perozich, John Habermas, and Terry Collins. *(January, $2.50)*

Mirage

Space Usagi, Stan Sakai's futuristic samurai hero, is back in a new limited series, ***Space Ussagi II: White Star Rising.*** The entire futuristic cast of the anthropomorphic adventure series is back again in this story that takes them back into the occupied White Star Castle. *(December-February, $2.75)*

Nemesis

The Frankenstein legend is updated for the 1990's in ***Frank,*** a new limited series by Dan chichester, Denys Cowan, Mike Manley, and JJ Birch. This time around, a serial killer is stealing body parts—and Frank seems to have a lot of 'em! the only problem is, they're now a part of him... *(December-February, $2.50)*

NGNG

Rana 7 stars seven frogs—but these are genetically-manipulated frogs who are now the Rana 7, an environmentally aware action team. The green guys comes to New York City, where they must confront the evil corporate mogul Donald Crimmins, in this new ongoing series. *(January-March, $2.25)*

Reoccurring Images

Alien Landscapes, a science fiction series, ties in with other Reoccurring Images books via Trithen Industries, the economic powerhouse of the galaxy that uses its resources to manipulate the lives of an unsuspecting population. This series will tie in with other series from this publisher as well as tying in with an upcoming Britton Productions' film. *(January, $2.95)*

Enforce was once an emergency room medical team, but when they worked on an injured alien being, his life force mutated them into a group of superheroes who must defend their world against the MegaMenace. This new superhero series is edited by Eliot S! Maggin, who's writing another of the books from this fledgling company. *(December-February, $2.95@)*

Future Course is a time-spanning series that focuses on Trithen Industries, a powerful company that has maintained an ironfisted grip on galactic power since the dawn of our world. Two bioengineered aliens have a plan to change all that, though... *(December, $2.95)*

Goldenrod #0, a winter release, will spawn not one but two series. This superhero saga, written by Elliott S! Maggin, tells the story of a superhero whose father was an alien revolutionary and whose mother was a human; he has incredible powers and a case of perpetual adolescence. Unfortunately, his friends have long since grown up, and the world has little use for a superhero with great powers and very little maturity. This book will lead into ***Goldenrod #1,*** which will continue the hero's adventures, and ***Goldenrod Retro #-1***, which will take readers backwards through the heroes earlier years. *(February, $2.95)*

Rip Off

O'Neill, a six-issue limited series, features the work of underground legend Dan O'Neill, whose work for ***Air Pirates*** made him infamous. Strips from the ***San Francisco Bay Guardian*** are collected for the first time in this series. *(January, $2.50)*

Rock-It

Lita Ford, popular heavy metal guitarist, singer, and subject of adolescent fantasies, stars in her own comic book adventure as she takes on Libby Snore and her censorship demons of the PMRC. Roland Mann and Jim Balent (whose art highlights ***Catwoman*** each month) handle the creative honors for this rock-fantasy comic. *(December, $3.95)*

Ozzy Osbourne music has been accused by some off-the-wall sorts of being demonic—but his entire soul may be lost to the netherworld in ***Ozzy Osbourne #1.*** A mysterious force has struck him down, and only the strength of Ozzy's spirit can bring him back to Earth. *(December, $3.95)*

Sky

Blood and Roses: Future Past Tense is a new limited series that follows two women, one from the past and one from the present, as they battle all sorts of evil forces in their quest for the pieces of the shattered Time Stone. The first issue features a gold-foil-stamped logo. *(December-February, $2.25)* ***Blood & Roses: Search for the Time Stone*** takes the team into the 1970's (and isn't it odd that the 70's are now a nostalgic part of our past?...). *(February, $2.25)*

Dead Kid is a new series written by ***Legion of Super-Heroes*** scribes Tom & Mary Bierbaum; its hero, Morty Coyle, may be dead, but a magic talisman makes it possible for him to rise from the grave in order to rise his skateboard, eat cheeseburgers, stare at girls, and fight crime. Long-time Bierbaum collaborator Keith Giffen supplies the cover for the first issue. *(January, $3.50)*

Seeker #1 continues where the Seeker limited series left off. Tracy LeMaster must face a supernatural menace that has, for centuries untold, plagues the apparition that now inhabits her body. *(February, $2.50)*

Skybox

The Sandman is such a unique comic book series that it should be no surprise that Skybox's ***Sandman Premium Trading Cards*** are quite different from the average cards. These larger-than-normal cards are 2.5" x 4.5"; approximately half the cards feature Dave McKean's covers from the series, while the remainder of the cards feature new Endless art by a variety of top talents. *(February, $3 per pack)*

The ***Ultraverse II: Origins Trading Cards*** series features 90 full-color cards relating key moments in the history of the Ultraverse, including the origin of the various ultrahumans. Nine full-bleed painted bonus cards featuring the women of the Ultraverse are randomly inserted, as are autograph cards and two ultra-rare exchange cards that can be exchanged for pieces of original art. *(February, $1.50/pack)*

Slave Labor

Seth Throb, Underground Artist takes readers back to Oblivion City along with tour-guide Andy Garcia. The first issue is a deeply personal look at Seth Throb's life and its effects on his work. *(February, $2.95)*

Topps

Harry Harrison's intrepid hero-star of several novels, ***Bill the Galactic Hero,*** comes to comics courtesy of Harrison, Zimmerman, and Gustovich. Bill is the hero discovered—that is, he had no plans to ever become the perfect Spaceship Trooper, but events conspired against him. The first issue of this three-issue limited series ships polybagged with exclusive trading cards. *(December, $2.95)*

The comic becomes a cartoon becomes a comic. ***Xenozoic Tales*** spawned the animated series ***Cadillacs & Dinosaurs***, which in turn is now spawning a new comic book series, ***Cadillacs and Dinosaurs,*** which unites Roy Thomas and Dick Giordano to chronicle the exploits of Jack and Hannah in a deconstructed world where dinosaurs are common and Cadillacs are all too

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rare. Got it? *(February, $2.95 collectors edition, $2.50 standard edition)*

Now that ***Deathmate*** is all but complete, Topps is scheduling their ***Deathmate Trading Cards: Red & Black Series.*** These cards feature new art by Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, Mark Silvestri, Bob Layton, Joe Quesada, and Barrt Sears, among others. *(February, $1.75/pack)*

Exosquad is an action-packed animated science fiction series—and it's also a comic book, courtesy of Len Wein and Joe Staton. The story details the struggle between the high-tech Exosquad and the mutant Neo-Sapiens, who intend to conquer Earth and rebuild it as their world. The series kicks off with a special ***Exosquad #0,*** then moves into the ongoing ***Exosquad*** series. *(January, $1 for the 0 issue, $2.50 for subsequent issues)*

Jurassic Park: Raptors Attack picks up where the first ***Raptor*** limited series leaves off. The raptors have reached the mainland, where they have become the playthings of a Colombian drug lord... but raptors don't remain playthings for long, do they?... *(February, $2.50)*

The ***Universal Monsters Illustrated Trading Card Series*** features art by Whilce Portacio, Brian Stelfreeze, Bill Sienkiewicz, Al Williamson, and others, chronicling nine of Universal's most famous horror-sf films. *(February, $1.50/pack)*

Zorro is set to become a major star at Topps in '94, but fans who can't wait for the new year can enjoy the ***Zorro #0*** preview comic this year. Standard editions of this Don McGregor-Mike Mayhew comic will be distributed in various December-release Topps titles, but a deluxe cardstock-cover edition is also available for fans who only want the best. *(December, $1)* The ongoing monthly Zorro series debuts in January, kicking off with an eye-catching Frank Miller cover. *(January, $2.50)*

The must-have Star Wars item of the Christmas season is sure to be the ***Star Wars Galaxy Millennium Falcon Trading Card Set***, feature deluxe foil-stamped versions of the entire card series plus all chase cards and new bonus cards packaged in a Millennium-Falcon shaped box that sits upon a foil-stamped base. This is a very limited item, though, so don't wait!... *(December, $125)*

Triumphant

Triumphant Unleashed, the company-wide crossover that also introduces new heroes Doctor Chaos and Prince Vandal to the Triumphant Universe, wraps up in December. Don't forget that this storyline will also feature the first comic appearance of the upcoming Defiant Comics hero War Dancer!... *(December, $2.50@)*

Ultraverse

Break-Thru is the big event of the winter for the Ultraverse line; the storyline kicks off in ***Exiles #4,*** which features the absolute end-of-the-line destruction of the Exiles, and then continues into ***Break-Thru #1*** (which features the first Ultraverse work by George Perez) and the December issues of every Ultraverse title. The storyline wraps up in ***Break-Thru #2***, a January release. This major crossover series will reveal the truth behind the origins of the Ultraverse heroes and will have a major effect on Ultraverse events to come, so it's a great place for new readers to jump into the Ultraverse world... and of course, old Ultraverse fans are sure to love it. *($2.50@ for the two Break-Thru issues, $1.95 each for all other installments)*

Chris Ulm and Barry Windsor-Smith's ***Rune,*** who has appeared in a series of installments in the November-release Ultraverse books, earns his own ongoing series beginning in early '94. Rune is a lifeforce-vampire, leeching the energy from his victims... and Rune is dying. Find out more about this hero-villain in his own monthly series. *(January-March, $1.95)*

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Wrath, the hero who recently appeared in ***Prototype,*** graduates to his own book this winter, courtesy of Mike Barr, David Ammerman, and James Pascoe. He's an ultrapowered agent for the secret government agency Aladdin, so you'll be seeing more of him and his organization in a variety of Ultraverse titles in the near future. *(January-March, $1.95)*

January is also **Origins Month** for the Ultraverse books; each comic will feature a bonus origin feature focusing on a different Ultraverse character or team. *(January, $1.95@)*

Valiant

Bloodshot #0 is a typical Valiant zero issue... which means that it's anything but a typical comic book! Kevin VanHook and Dick Giordano present the origin of Bloodshot in this must-have book, while fan-fave Joe Quesada supplies the wraparound chromium cover. *(December, $3.50)*

Back in the Dark Horse listing, we told you that there was a *major* Nexus event that would be mentioned in the Valiant listings, and here it is! ***Magnus: Robot Fighter/Nexus #1*** is a grand two-issue limited series that brings the promise of peace and prosperity to North Am... but at what price? Mike Baron and Steve Rude, Nexus' co-creators, join forces to present this labor of love; the two have been long-time Magnus fans, so this is almost as much fun for them as it's sure to be for all of us who'll enjoy reading it. *(December-January, $2.95@)*

The Starwatchers, a team destined to move into their own book later this year, make their first appearance in ***Rai & the Future Force #21.*** If you miss it, don't blame us!... *(February, $2.25)*

January is Shadowman Month; among the offerings are ***Shadowman #0,*** a special origin tale by Bob Hall and Tom Ryder (this book will be released in a chromium-cover edition and a standard-format edition) (($3.50/$2.50); the ***Shadowman Trade Paperback,*** reprinting the hard-to-find ***Shadowman #s 1-3*** and ***6*** ($9.95) ; and a special appearance in ***Archer & Armstrong #21***—and ***Shadowman #24***, the latest issue of the ongoing series, of course ($2.50@).

Solar, Man of the Atom #33 is another Valiant Vision issue. See, we told you that those glasses could be used more than once! *(February, $2.25)*

The Valiant Era, a trade paperback reprinting a variety of hard-to-find Valiant first appearances, includes the first appearance of Turok, Eternal Warrior, and Bloodshot *(December, $13.95)*.

All of Valiant's February releases feature special insert trading cards promoting Upper Deck's ***Valiant Era II Trading Card*** series that'll hit the comic shop shelves this spring. These cards are be included at no extra cost; each title will include a specific card spotlighting a hero from another title.

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Viz

Mermaid Forest is the latest addition to Viz's line of Rumiko Takahashi comic; this four-issue limited series tells the story of two immortals who have grown tired of living forever. *(December-March, $2.75)* Takahashi's human-interest saga, ***Maison Ikkoku***, also continues with a new six-issue limited series, ***Maison Ikkoku Part II.*** *(January-March, $2.95)*

Promise is Viz's first venture into the realm of shojo, which are manga that focus on human characters and their interpersonal relationships rather than on action and violent conflict. This 80-page one-shot features two stories of love gone wrong. *(February, $5.95)*

Ranma 1/2, Rumiko Takahashi's ever-popular series about a boy who is sometimes a girl, continues in its third miniseries. ***Ranma 1/2 Part Three #1,*** which kicks off a thirteen-issue limited series, also introduces a variety of new characters into the series, including Shampoo and Cologne, who are featured in the ***Ranma 1/2: Desperately Seeking Shampoo*** video that Viz is releasing the same month. *(December-February, $2.75 for the comic; December, $34.95 for the video)*

Original Japanese Ultraman adventures by Mamor Uchiyama are presented in ***Ultraman Classic: Battle of the Ultra-Brothers.*** This five-issue limited series pits the Ultra-Brothers against a conglomeration of their greatest enemies. *(January-March, $4.95@)*

Warp

Elfquest: Wavedancers, a new series by Australian writers Julie Ditrich and Bruce Love and artist Jozef Szekeres, introduces a new group of elves, the Wavedancers, and explores their history up to the present. It also explains just how their queen can look amazingly like Winnow... *(December-February, $2@)*

Welsh

The company that has already brought you ***Superman and Batman Magazine*** adds another comics-related publication to its line. ***Don Martin Magazine*** features a full book of Martinesque humor in the style you've grown to love in ***Mad*** and ***Cracked***—and Martin is personally signing the polybagged poster in every tenth issue of the magazine! *(December-January, $2.50)*

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